

at least one-quarter of a width of each absorber blade,] wherein neutron absorbing material is arranged in the outer part of each blade and neutron absorbing material is not arranged in at least a portion of the inner part of each blade and wherein a mean quantity of absorber material per unit length of the control rod is less in the upper part than in the lower part; and

a plurality of recesses comprising through holes through the absorber blades and arranged in the inner part of the blades along the cruciform center, wherein recesses arranged in the upper part of the blades are wider than at least a majority of recesses arranged in the lower part of the blades.

Clean copy of amended claim:

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14. A control rod, comprising:

four absorber blades forming an orthogonal cross having a cruciform center and having an upper part, a lower part, an inner part proximal to the cruciform center, an outer part distal to the cruciform center, a width in a radial direction of the blade and a length in a longitudinal direction of the blade, wherein neutron absorbing material is arranged in the outer part of each blade and neutron absorbing material is not arranged in at least a portion of the inner part of each blade and wherein a mean quantity of absorber material per unit length of the control rod is less in the upper part than in the lower part; and

a plurality of recesses comprising through holes through the absorber blades and arranged in the inner part of the blades along the cruciform center, wherein recesses arranged in the upper part of the blades are wider than at least a majority of recesses arranged in the lower part of the blades.

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